

NETWORKS!

OCTOBER 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CERTIFICATE OF
OCCUPANCY
REQUIREMENTS**

**WHAT'S REALLY
GOOD!**

ROLL CALL

**INSPECTOR'S
PERSPECTIVE**

**NEIGHBORHOOD
HAPPENINGS**

FALL SEASON TIPS!! REFUSE & LEAVES

- Place your Refuse Toter, recycling box, and any bulk between the sidewalk and curb the night before pickup.
- Keep Refuse Toter lids tightly shut to avoid unwanted visitors.
- Loose leaves will be picked up on designated weeks during the month of November.

CLIFF-NOTES

BY MOLLY CLIFFORD

On behalf of all of the staff of the Neighborhood Empowerment Teams (NET) Bureau, welcome to the Fall edition of *NETWorks!* We hope you had a safe and healthy summer.

Summer is the busiest time for NET, with so many people spending time outdoors in their neighborhoods and helping us to identify areas for improvement. In addition to regular inspection duties, NET staff were busy this summer adjusting to new areas and co-workers, as well as familiarizing themselves with the City of Rochester's new Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Ordinance.

The Lead Paint ordinance was passed by the Rochester City Council last December and took effect on July 1 of this year. Under this new law, NET inspectors will look for exterior and interior deteriorated paint above minimum levels in all City of Rochester rental housing units. Property owners will be cited if they have these violations above the minimum levels and be asked to correct the situation according to guidelines set forth in the legislation. Throughout the City, any work that disturbs paint on the exterior of any structure, including owner-occupied homes, must be done using Lead Safe Work Practices.

In identified "high risk" areas (right now, 90% of the northeast's Area F and 50% of the westside's Area B), if no deteriorated paint has been found, property owners are also required to have a lead wipe test to ensure the absence of lead dust hazards. This extra test is necessary because Monroe County Department of Public Health data has shown that children who are residents of these areas are more likely to be affected by lead poisoning.

(Continued on Pg. 4)



Molly Clifford
NET Director

THE HAWKEYE REPORT

BY DAVID HAWKES

One thing I am proud of in this community is that during the Summer there are plenty of activities that satisfy everyone's desires. Those are the unique qualities of living in an urban community that is rich in diversity.

As Summer has wound down and we have moved into the Fall season, the trees are turning this community picture perfect. The leaves are falling from the trees and daylight savings time is just around the corner. This is the time of year where we prepare for the cold weather. The City's crews will be out doing leaf pick-up in November, and the Fall Clean Sweep was a great success.



David Hawkes
NET Administrator

(Continued on Pg. 2)

THE HAWKEYE REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

It will soon be Halloween. Here are a few safety tips to protect our children, at Halloween and throughout the year. Remember to turn your porch light on for the trick or treaters. If you are taking your children out, make sure their masks don't hurt their visibility and only go to houses that have their front porch lights on. Remind your children not to eat any candy until an adult has inspected it.

At the NET office, we are committed to continuing to deliver excellence in service, and have created a Neighborhood Empowerment Team service rating card. If you visit our office, please take a moment to fill the card out. This input and feedback is valuable. It lets us know how we are doing and where we need to improve.

*At the NET
office, we are
committed to
continuing to
deliver
excellence in
service...*

The NET office wishes you a Happy Holiday Season. May your family be blessed.



NEW CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS

BY GARY KIRKMIRE, NET CODE COORDINATOR

On July 18, 2006, City Council amended the City of Rochester's Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) legislation. A C of O involving an existing structure is a visual property maintenance inspection to make sure that rental property in the City is safe and healthy. All rental properties in the City of Rochester are required to have these inspections which must be renewed upon expiration.

The recent changes to the C of O requirements will allow us to both fulfill our obligation of meeting newly adopted state mandated inspections and to allocate the appropriate amount of inspection staff to our new Lead Program. The new requirements are listed below under the relative category.

Single Family Rentals and Two Family Dwellings:

► Need a C of O every six years. ► Can obtain a waiver from this requirement if occupied by the owner or the owners spouse, child, parent or sibling. (This waiver must be annually renewed). ► Two Family structures where ownership is being transferred need a C of O if one hasn't been issued within the past two years.

Multiple Dwellings and Mixed Use Occupancies:

► Need a C of O every three years. ► There is no waiver available for these structures. ► There is no requirement for a new C of O when transferring ownership of these properties, so long as the current one is valid.

All Structures with Residential Dwelling Units: If completely vacant for more than two months a C of O is needed to re-occupy it unless one has been issued within the past year.

The City of Rochester's Certificate of Occupancy requirements provide a vital tool in the ongoing maintenance of the City's aged housing stock. If you have any questions relative to the C of O process or these newly established amendments please contact the NET Central Office at 428-6520.

ROLL CALL



BY LT. FRANK CHURNETSKI

The nights are getting longer now that the sun sets earlier. With this, we in law enforcement note an increase in street robberies of pedestrians. The *Bad Guys* enjoy the night due to the limited visibility of potential victims and witnesses alike. Not being seen or identified during a crime is the goal of most of our criminals.

Here are some common sense tips for being aware of your surroundings that may prevent you from becoming a victim or may help you to prevent another's victimization. Walking alone sometimes cannot be avoided but traveling with friends often deters this type of criminal. If you walk at night, carry a flashlight. Traveling on well lit roadways and staying away from darkened shortcuts and alleys may help ensure that you are visible to others. When traveling to your vehicle or home, have your keys ready and be prepared if you can.

I suspect that we all have had feelings of uneasiness in a situation. I ask that you pay attention to this feeling and pay attention to people in the neighborhoods that seem to be lurking around or just don't belong. When you live in a neighborhood, you develop a sense of normalcy and generally know what belongs and what is out of place. If you see someone out of place and they make you feel like there is the likelihood of them preparing to commit a crime, please call the police and provide that person's description to the police dispatch center (911).

Please do your best to illuminate the exterior of your home. Be a beacon in the night, and this too will help to prevent the "Bad Guy" from thinking that they can victimize you or your property. Consider joining a Neighborhood Watch program, a local neighborhood group or PAC-TAC. Call you NET Office to find out how to join. A well-coordinated neighborhood helps to set the standards of conduct that prevents criminal activity.

INSPECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

BY ANNE WALLACE

Refuse disposal is an issue in every NET area. On a daily basis, Neighborhood Conservation Officers (NCO) monitor their area to make sure trash is being picked up and Refuse Toters have been removed from the curb. Households are allowed to put refuse to the curb **no more than 24 hours** before pick-up. If the refuse is put out prior to that, or after pick-up day, inspectors will take the proper measures to resolve the problem so that it does not create a blight to the neighborhood. The first step is to make contact with the occupant to explain the regulations and to have the debris removed. For the first offense, the NCO will issue a notice and order on a triplicate form. The "hard copy" is left on the door of the property, the second is for office use, and the third is sent to the owner with a letter concerning the refuse problem. If a property becomes a chronic nuisance, the notice and order will be issued for either 48 hours or immediate pick-up. If refuse is not removed within the designated time frame, the owner will be fined.

Improperly stored toters are another nuisance to neighborhood streets. Refuse Toters can be placed to the curb 24 hours prior to refuse pick-up, and should be removed within 24 hours after refuse pick-up. With toter violations, the NCO will place an orange door hanger on the property explaining the regulations for toter removal. A toter letter is also sent to the owner for the first and second offenses. On a third offense, the NCO issues a Municipal Code Violation Ticket for \$25.00 that is sent to the property owner. If the property is in continuous violation, a ticket can be issued everyday until the violation has been taken care of.

Please be a good neighbor and make sure that you are putting your trash out on the correct day, and that your toter is properly stored.

WHAT'S REALLY GOOD!

The Sector 4 area is really revitalized! New businesses are moving into the area. New housing development projects are underway, and people are getting re-energized about their neighborhood. **If you are new to Sector 4, Welcome to the neighborhood!**

On September 30th a Mini Clean Sweep sponsored by University of Rochester Students took place. 250 student participated in cleaning up our area. The City and the City School District provided transportation for the students to get from the campus to the Clean Sweep locations. This was a great opportunity for the community, University of Rochester, City of Rochester and the City School District to partner together for a common goal. **Thanks to all!**



NETWORKS!

NET AREA C

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CLIFF-NOTES

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

Lead paint poisoning poses a serious and irreversible threat to the health and development of Rochester's children. Recent studies point to lead exposure as a major cause of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), among other developmental disabilities. The use of lead in household paint was not banned in the United States until 1978, so it is assumed that houses built before that year have at least some lead paint in them. Lead's harmful effects do not lessen over time; it is the City's hope that by taking proactive measures to decrease lead exposure, we will keep more of our children safe and healthy.

For more information on the Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Ordinance and what it means to you, please visit the City's Website, www.cityofrochester.gov, and look for the lead link. Enjoy this edition of *NetWorks!*, and please do not hesitate to contact me at 428-6524 or at Molly.Clifford@cityofrochester.gov should you have any questions or concerns at any time.

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS!

SWAN Board

Meetings start at 6:00 pm @ the Southwest Community Center
Contact: Mr. Ron Allen @ 436-8201

Sector 4 CDC

3rd Tuesday of the month @ 7:30 am at the CDC Office
Contact: Dana Miller, Chair @ 235-2925

Cultural Committee

4th Monday of every month @ 6:00 pm
Contact: Lisa Johnson @ 436-7401

Sector 4 Common Council

3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm @ Southwest Community Center
Contact: Maxsene B. Hanks @ 527-9566 ext 205

Sector 4 Business & Economic Development Comm

2nd Wednesday of every month @ 6:00 pm @ the CDC Office
Contact: Josann Reaves, Chair @ 436-3862

Public Safety Committee

3rd Thursday of every month @ 6:00 pm, Genesee Substation/587 Jefferson
Contact: Patricia Jackson, Chair @ 436-8201

Sector 4 Community/Communications Committee

1st Thursday of every month @ 6:15 pm @ Community Center

Youth, Education & Recreation

4th Monday of every month @ 5:30 pm, Anthony Square / Troup St
Contact: Gladys Royster, Chair @ 328-1382

Human Services / Housing

2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm, Kennedy Towers/S Plymouth Av
Contact: Gloria Edmonds @ 328-9010